

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A polysulfone permselective hollow fiber membrane bundle which contains poly(vinylpyrrolidone) and which shows a hydrogen peroxide-eluting amount of 5 ppm or less with respect to the mass of the hollow fiber membrane, when the following procedure is conducted: to an eluate (2.6 ml) obtained by an ~~eluation~~ elution test regulated in the Approval Standard for Dialysis-type Artificial Kidney Apparatus is added a solution mixture of a hydrogen chloride solution of TiCl_4 mixed with an ammonium chloride buffer (pH 8.6) (0.2 ml) equivalent in molar ratio and an aqueous solution of a Na salt of 4-(2-pyridilazo)resorcinol; further, a 0.4 mM coloring reagent (0.2 ml) is added, and the resulting mixture is heated at 50°C for 5 minutes, and then is cooled to room temperature; and the absorbance of the resultant solution is measured at a wavelength of 508 nm.

2. (Currently Amended) A polysulfone permselective hollow fiber membrane bundle according to claim 1, which shows a hydrogen peroxide concentration of 5 ppm or less in every one of eluates from 10 portions into which the hollow fiber membrane bundle is divided in the lengthwise direction, when each of said portions is subjected to an ~~eluation~~ elution test regulated in the Approval Standard for Dialysis-type Artificial Kidney Apparatus.

3. (Currently Amended) A polysulfone permselective hollow fiber membrane bundle according to claim 1, wherein, when said hollow fiber membrane bundle is subjected to an ~~eluation~~ elution test regulated in the Approval Standard for Dialysis-type Artificial Kidney Apparatus, the amount of poly(vinylpyrrolidone) eluted from said hollow fiber membrane bundle is 10 ppm or less.

4. (Previously Presented) A polysulfone permselective hollow fiber membrane bundle according to claim 1, wherein said poly(vinylpyrrolidone) is crosslinked.
5. (Previously Presented) A polysulfone permselective hollow fiber membrane bundle according to claim 1, wherein said poly(vinylpyrrolidone) is insolubilized.
6. (Currently Amended) A polysulfone permselective hollow fiber membrane bundle according to claim 1, wherein, when said hollow fiber membrane bundle is subjected to an ~~eluation~~ elution test regulated in the Approval Standard for Dialysis-type Artificial Kidney Apparatus, after having been stored at room temperature for one year, the maximum value of the UV absorbance of an eluate from the hollow fiber membrane bundle at a wavelength of 220 to 350 nm is 0.10 or less.
7. (Withdrawn) A process for manufacturing the polysulfone permselective hollow fiber membrane bundle of claim 1, said process comprising the step of spinning a solution which contains a polysulfone polymer, poly(vinylpyrrolidone) and a solvent, wherein the content of hydrogen peroxide in said poly(vinylpyrrolidone) is 300 ppm or less.
8. (Withdrawn) A process according to claim 7, including the steps of previously kneading said components, and stirring and dissolving the resultant knead mixture in a dissolution tank.
9. (Withdrawn) A process according to claim 7, wherein said components are dissolved in a dissolution tank equipped with a kneading device.
10. (Withdrawn) A process according to claim 8, wherein the kneading and/or dissolving of at least poly(vinylpyrrolidone) is carried out at a temperature of not higher than 70°C under a nitrogen atmosphere.

11. (Withdrawn) A process according to claim 8, wherein the dissolution is carried out under conditions of a Froude number of 0.7 to 1.3 and a Reynolds number of 50 to 250.

12. (Withdrawn) A process according to claim 7, including the step of drying the hollow fiber membrane bundle by irradiating the same bundle with microwave under a reduced pressure.

13. (Withdrawn) A process according to claim 12, wherein said drying is carried out by irradiating the hollow fiber membrane bundle with microwave having a low output of 20 kW or less under a reduced pressure of 0.1 to 20 kPa.

14. (Withdrawn) A process according to claim 12, wherein said drying is carried out while the output of microwave is being sequentially decreased in accordance with a decrease in the moisture content of the hollow fiber membrane bundle.

15. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A process according to claim 7, comprising the step of subjecting, to a crosslinking treatment, a hollow fiber membrane bundle which shows a hydrogen peroxide concentration of 3 ppm or less in every one of eluates from 10 portions into which the hollow fiber membrane bundle is divided in the lengthwise direction, when each of said portions is subjected to an ~~eluation~~ elution test regulated in the Approval Standard for Dialysis-type Artificial Kidney Apparatus.

16. (Previously Presented) A blood purifier packed with a polysulfone permselective hollow fiber membrane bundle defined in claim 1.

17. (Currently Amended) A blood purifier according to claim 16, wherein, when said blood purifier is subjected to an ~~eluation~~ elution test regulated in the Approval Standard for Dialysis-type Artificial Kidney Apparatus, after having been stored at room temperature for one year, the maximum value of the UV absorbance of an eluate therefrom at a wavelength of 220 to 350 nm is 0.10 or less.

18. (Previously Presented) The polysulfone permselective hollow fiber membrane bundle according to claim 1, wherein the bundle is prepared by using a poly(vinylpyrrolidone) containing 300 ppm or less of hydrogen peroxide as a starting material.

19. (Previously Presented) The polysulfone permselective hollow fiber membrane bundle according to claim 1, wherein the bundle is prepared by kneading at least the poly(vinylpyrrolidone) in an inert gas before dissolving the poly(vinylpyrrolidone) in a solvent.

20. (Currently Amended) The polysulfone permselective hollow fiber membrane bundle according to claim 1, wherein the bundle is prepared by dissolving the poly(vinylpyrrolidone) in a solvent in an inert gas at 5-70°C to form a solution, in which at least some of the oxygen dissolved in the solvent is optionally replaced by the second inert gas.

21. (Previously Presented) The polysulfone permselective hollow fiber membrane bundle according to claim 1, wherein the bundle is prepared by washing the bundle after the bundle is formed but before drying the bundle.

22. (Previously Presented) The polysulfone permselective hollow fiber membrane bundle according to claim 1, wherein the bundle is prepared by drying the bundle by irradiating the bundle with microwave under a reduced pressure.

23. (Previously Presented) The polysulfone permselective hollow fiber membrane bundle according to claim 1, wherein the bundle is prepared by crosslinking the bundle in an inert gas.

24. (Currently Amended) The polysulfone permselective hollow fiber membrane bundle according to claim 1, wherein ~~the bundle comprises from 0.5 to 40 mass% of an insoluble matter~~ the bundle is insoluble in dimethylformamide.

25. (Previously Presented) The polysulfone permselective hollow fiber membrane bundle according to claim 1, wherein the bundle has a burst pressure of not lower than 0.5 MPa.

26. (Previously Presented) The polysulfone permselective hollow fiber membrane bundle according to claim 1, wherein the bundle has a minimum thickness deviation not smaller than 0.6.